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Spy Suspect Delivered To the FBI

Seaman Arrested Aboard the Nimitz

By Ruth Marcus
and Sharon LaFraniere
Washington Post Staff Writers

Navy seaman Michael Lance Walker, part of a father-son team accused of spying for the Soviet Union, arrived at Andrews Air Force Base yesterday and was turned over to FBI agents investigating the case.

Walker, 22, who was arrested Wednesday on board the USS Nimitz in Haifa, Israel, returned to the United States about 2:30 p.m. yesterday on a Navy C-9 transport plane that left Friday from Tel Aviv and stopped overnight in Rota, Spain.

Walker and his father, retired Navy communications specialist John Anthony Walker Jr., were arrested last week on charges of passing secrets to the Soviet Union.

As a bevy of reporters and camera crews watched from a distance, Michael Walker, wearing a white shirt and blue pants, his wrists handcuffed in front of him, was escorted down the back steps of the plane by agents of the Naval Investigative Service.

He was met on the ramp by FBI agents who displayed identification, then surrounded Walker and led him to the back seat of one of six waiting cars. Earlier, agents carried from the plane an orange plastic bag, a clear plastic bag, a duffel bag and two suitbags.

Walker, who entered the Navy in 1982 and had been serving on the Nimitz since January 1984, was taken to the FBI's Baltimore office yesterday afternoon. FBI spokesmen would not say where he would

be held before his scheduled hearing before a federal magistrate in Baltimore Tuesday.

"The whole bureau is not making any comment," said Baltimore FBI spokesman Rosemary Viscini.

His father, 47, is being held without bond in the Baltimore city jail pending a preliminary hearing Wednesday in Baltimore federal court.

John Walker, a Norfolk private detective who retired from the Navy in 1976 after a 21-year career, was arrested Monday at a Rockville motel after FBI agents allegedly observed him drop a shopping bag filled with 129 classified documents—including some from the Nimitz—in a wooded area in western Montgomery County. A Soviet national observed near the alleged "drop site" has left the country, official sources said.

Michael Walker, assigned to the ship's operations office, had access to the "burn bag" of secret documents on board the Nimitz, according to Navy sources. They said the "burn bag" might have contained information about the movements of U.S. and Soviet ships in the Mediterranean.

Acquaintances who knew Michael Walker from his school days in Norfolk said the young man adored his father and would do anything to please him. Michael Walker "really respected his father. That was obvious," said Robert Bastian, 21, a former classmate.

He recalled one incident when Michael Walker lost his usual calm and panicked when his father's van, borrowed for a camping trip, broke down. Michael was apparently worried that his father would be displeased.

"When his grades would come in, he was afraid his dad would yell at him," Bastian said.

Bill Abourjilie, 20, another former classmate, said that Michael Walker "would probably do anything his dad asked him He wasn't worried about anyone else, he was just worried about pleasing his father."

Michael graduated in 1982 from Ryan High School, a small college-preparatory school, where he spent his junior and senior years.

He joined the soccer team, main-

tained grades of mostly Cs, and struck up friendships with students who shared his love of the beach and surfing.

His crowd was "maybe a little bit freer than some of the others; but you wouldn't have labeled him a bad kid," said Bastian, who works in the school office.

"Everybody's looking for this real unusual guy who kept to himself a lot," said Chris Rumsey, a close friend of Walker's. "He was just a regular guy, that's what's so weird."

Sources familiar with other espionage cases say that this is the first one they can remember that involves a father and a son.

"There have been a lot of husband-and-wife cases, like the Rosenbergs," said George A. Carver Jr., a former CIA official. "But I can't recall a particular father-and-son case."

Meanwhile, a Norfolk woman said she has told the FBI that she may have unwittingly participated in dropping off documents to the Soviets. According to a story in yesterday's Virginian-Pilot in Norfolk, R.K. Puma told the FBI that she dropped off a bag that she believed was full of trash for Walker at a site in Rockville, Md., in 1977 for \$500.

Puma said she deposited the plastic bag by a utility pole some time after midnight after following a complicated series of instructions that Walker gave her along with photographs of designated sites in the area. She said that she made the drop after looking for two soda cans along the side of the road, and was to signal each sighting by saying over her CB radio, "This is mobile 1, proceed to the accident scene." If she received no return message, she said she was to continue.

Puma said she went along with the plan to humor Walker, who employed her as an apartment house manager, dismissing it then as "one of the goofiest kinds of come-ons that I've ever heard." She said she kept the photographs and the instructions and turned them over to the FBI on Friday.

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While the two Walkers remain in custody, other members of the family remained silent in the glare of publicity that has descended upon them since the senior Walker's arrest. The media attention intensified with the FBI's disclosure that more arrests of Americans are expected in the case.

FBI officials said last week that they are questioning relatives and associates of John Walker.

Rita Walker, the wife of Walker's brother, retired Navy lieutenant commander Arthur Walker, declined to respond to questions yesterday. "We're not making any comments," she said from the doorway of her ranch-style home in Virginia Beach.

Barbara Joy Crowley Walker, the ex-wife of accused spy John Walker and the mother of Michael Walker, could not be located. Navy sources say she turned in her former husband.

The couple's daughter, Cynthia Walker, 25, who lives in West Dennis, Mass., said yesterday she had not been in contact with her mother. "I lead a simple life trying to make ends meet," she said. "I don't need to be bothered by this. I don't know anything."

In Norfolk, FBI agents kept watch over John Walker's two-story brick home at 8524 Old Ocean View Rd. The house has been cordoned off by yellow tape that says: "Police Line-Do Not Cross."

FBI agents used sledgehammers

Friday in an unsuccessful search for explosive devices that they feared might have been planted by Walker as a booby-trap. At one point during the day, agents ordered neighbors to evacuate their homes so they wouldn't be hurt if there was an explosion. But nothing was found, officials said.

According to an affidavit filed in federal court, FBI agents who searched Walker's home after his arrest Monday found correspondence from his son Michael bragging about having been named "Sailor of the Month" and describing the "hundred pounds" of materials that he had collected from the Nimitz.

Last week FBI officials said agents are searching for bank accounts or money caches because they believed that John Walker was allegedly passing information to the Soviets "for financial gain."

According to a divorce agreement filed in state circuit court in Norfolk, John and Barbara Walker

owned property and businesses in Florida, South Carolina, North Carolina and Virginia when they were divorced in 1976.

After he retired from the U.S. Navy on July 31, 1976, Walker went into business with his brother Arthur, now 50, operating a Virginia Beach electronics firm called Walker Enterprises, according to court records of a lawsuit against the company.

In the late 1970s, Walker went to work as a detective for Wackenhut Corp., court papers show. Then, about four years ago, Walker started his own private investigating firms: Confidential Reports, Electronic De-Bugging and Associated Detectives. All are located in the same office in a Virginia Beach office building.

Staff writers Molly Sinclair and Chris Spolar contributed to this report.



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R.K. Puma told the FBI she dropped off a bag in Maryland for John Walker.

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WASHINGTON POST
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Spy Suspect Watched for 3 Months

*Daughter and Ex-Wife
Tipped FBI, Source Says*

By Molly Sinclair and Chris Spolar
Washington Post Staff Writers

The FBI began watching John Anthony Walker Jr., accused along with his son of spying for the Soviet Union, about three months ago, a government source said yesterday.

The source said Walker was turned in by his 25-year-old daughter, Cynthia, in addition to his former wife, Barbara Joy Crowley Walker, 47.

Family members of John Walker, 47, a retired Navy communications officer who has been living in Norfolk and working as a private detective, may have suspected Walker's alleged espionage activities, the source said.

In an effort to determine the extent of the alleged activities of Walker and his son, Michael Lance Walker, 22, both charged with espionage, government agents have "conducted lots of interviews and more interviews will be done before this case is through," the source said.

Barbara Walker, who was divorced from John Walker in 1976, declined comment yesterday about her former husband and son when contacted in West Dennis, Mass., where she has been working as a checkout clerk in The Christmas Tree Shops.

"I don't want to talk," she said.

Shortly afterward, she left her job and went to the two-bedroom apartment where she lives with her daughter, Cynthia, and Cynthia's 8-year-old son, Tommy.

Their second-floor apartment is located above a bookstore on the main street of West Dennis, a tourist town on Cape Cod.

Cynthia Walker, one of three daughters of John Walker and the sister of Michael Walker, also declined comment. She works in a dentist's office.

The Walker family includes five brothers, including John and two others with military

service, as well as in-laws and grown children in several cities.

John Walker served as a communications officer with "top secret crypto" clearance before retiring from the U.S. Navy in 1976. For the last several years, he has operated three detective companies, one of which

specialized in electronic debugging. Walker kept an airplane, a houseboat and a van loaded with electronic equipment.

John Walker's arrest at a Ramada Inn in Rockville came shortly after FBI agents allegedly saw him drop a shopping bag filled with 129 classified documents, including some from the Nimitz, in a wooded area in western Montgomery County.

A Soviet national seen near the alleged "drop site" has left the country, officials said.

Subsequent to Walker's arrest, about 20 FBI agents searched his home at 8524 Old Ocean View Rd. in Norfolk and uncovered material that led to the arrest of his son, Michael, a seaman serving aboard the Nimitz, according to the criminal complaint filed by the FBI in federal court in Baltimore.

Government officials now say that the case has turned out to be far more significant than originally suspected at the time of the first arrest.

Michael Walker, 22, has been serving as a yeoman third class aboard the nuclear aircraft carrier the Nimitz for the last 17 months. Before enlisting in the Navy in December 1982, he lived with his father in Norfolk.

A source familiar with the Walker case said that Barbara and Cynthia Walker contacted the FBI about three months ago. The source said a telephone tip is not sufficient in a case like this.

"They would have to go in and make a written statement . . . and sign it . . . for something this serious," the source said.

The FBI office closest to the West Dennis area is in Hyannis, where the agency has two or three agents assigned to a small office, the source said.

While Barbara and Cynthia Walker kept silent yesterday, the West Dennis townspeople who know them provided some details about the quiet life they have had, despite the recent publicity surrounding the family.

Krista Booker, 22, who works at The Christmas Tree Shops, said yesterday that Barbara Walker had been working there about a year and was "really nice . . . friendly to everybody."

Yesterday, a busy day for the town's tourist trade, The Christmas Tree Shops was jammed with customers buying an assortment of Christmas ornaments, nautical knickknacks and pottery. Barbara Walker, wearing the store's green apron, was one of about six workers manning cash registers. Another

half-dozen workers helped bag purchases for customers.

Residents said Barbara Walker moved into the apartment with her daughter in January. They pay about \$350 a month for their subsidized housing, according to neighbors.

Tom Bayek Jr., 20, the cook at The Village Deli down the street from the Walkers' apartment, said it was common knowledge in West Dennis that espionage charges had

been filed against Barbara Walker's husband.

Bayek said the espionage charges against Michael Walker may have come as a surprise to Barbara Walker. "I think she had to be surprised," Bayek said. "She talked highly of her son in the Navy. She was proud of him."

There has been little or no contact between John Walker and his daughter Cynthia, residents here said. "Tommy's never seen his

grandfather—he says that all the time," Bayek said.

Michael Walker's wife, Rachel, 22, who lives in Virginia Beach, went to Baltimore this weekend in an effort to see her husband. It was not known yesterday whether Rachel made the trip on her own or was summoned by the FBI, or whether she was permitted to talk to her husband.

Staff writer Sharon LaFraniere contributed to this report.

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25 May 1985

Accused Spy Had Access to Nimitz's 'Burn Bag'

By Ruth Marcus and Molly Sinclair
Washington Post Staff Writers

Accused U.S. spy Michael Lance Walker had access to a so-called "burn bag" of secret documents on the nuclear aircraft carrier USS Nimitz, Navy sources disclosed yesterday as officials continued to investigate a case of espionage they said may have been more far more damaging to national security than originally suspected.

The most sensitive documents on a carrier generally are shredded, sources said, but other classified material is set aside to be burned. Documents in the burn bag could contain information on the movements of American and Soviet ships.

While Naval officials and intelligence analysts agree that the burn bag might have held sensitive information, they say that far more damaging material may have been provided to the Soviets by Michael's father, John Anthony Walker Jr.

The elder Walker, who was arrested Monday, had access to information about the movements of both U.S. and Soviet submarines and other ships as a radio officer on Polaris submarines and as a communications officer for the Naval Submarine Force, the Amphibious Force and the Naval Surface Force in Norfolk, beginning in the early 1960s. He had "top secret crypto" clearance before he retired.

Both father, 47, and son, 22, have been charged with espionage.

Navy sources said Barbara Joy Crowley Walker, John Walker's ex-wife and Michael Walker's mother,

turned in her former husband, who had been working as a private detective in Norfolk since his retirement from the Navy in 1976. Barbara Walker, who is believed to be living on Cape Cod, could not be reached for comment.

John Walker was arrested in the

Ramada Inn in Rockville after federal agents saw him dropping off a bag of documents in Poolesville in western Montgomery County. Michael Walker was arrested aboard the Nimitz on Wednesday, and he is scheduled to return to the United States today. Navy officials said Walker will be turned over to the FBI after he arrives at Andrews Air Force Base this afternoon.

Sources said yesterday that a Soviet national, spotted Sunday near the Poolesville site where agents recovered the classified documents, has left the United States.

The senior Walker, who is being held without bond in the Baltimore city jail, yesterday asked a federal judge to bar the FBI, Navy and other officials from revealing nonpublic information about the case.

But U.S. District Judge Norman P. Ramsey said he would impose the order only if U.S. Attorney J. Frederick Motz agreed. Such a limitation, Ramsey said, "has all the earmarks of a gag order."

John Walker's attorney, federal public defender Fred Warren Bennett, said after the hearing that he did not expect Motz to agree to the order, and that he would appeal the ruling to the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, perhaps as early as Tuesday.

FBI officials said earlier this week that they believed that the motivation for the alleged espionage was financial gain.

Michael Walker had "secret" clearance aboard the Nimitz, where he held a clerical position in the ship's operations department. Walker's "secret" clearance was higher than "confidential" but lower than "top secret" clearance, officials said.

Michael Walker was assigned to destroy materials up to the level of "secret" in the "burn bag," Navy sources said.

Retired Rear Adm. Eugene Car-

roll, deputy director of the Center for Defense Information, a Washington policy group, said that Walker's "burn bag" duty would permit him to see a much wider variety of material than a normal seaman.

Among the items found in a search of Walker's bunk area on the Nimitz was a box containing about 15 pounds of classified material, according to an FBI affidavit filed in federal court in Baltimore.

Carroll, whose organization is often critical of the military, said the most damaging information accessible to Walker would be intelligence about Soviet ship movements in the Mediterranean, particularly submarine locations.

It would be helpful, he said, for the Soviets to know how much the United States knows about the movement of Soviet submarines so they could develop tactics to elude detection.

The elder Walker knew even more. He could have passed on "spot information about where actual U.S. ships were deployed at any given moment," according to George A. Carver Jr., a former high-level official in the CIA and now a senior fellow at Georgetown University's Center for Strategic and International Studies. John Walker's alleged involvement was "potentially quite serious" for the United States, he said.

Carver said that information allegedly passed by Walker could have been used by the Soviets to make up their own fake communications.

Forgeries, he said, are "more plausibly done if you know . . . the salutation used and the way that the prose is used."

Information on submarines is considered "perhaps the most sensitive intelligence information that the United States has," said Capt. James T. Bush, a retired submarine commander who also works at the Center for Defense Information.

"The backbone of the deterrent philosophy is that the missile-firing submarines are invulnerable," Bush said.

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"If that philosophy is changed, then we have to change a whole way of doing things."

According to Navy sources, attack submarines routinely lie in wait at ambush spots under the sea to pick up the trail of Soviet missile and attack submarines. The U.S. attack submarines are quieter than their Soviet counterparts, enabling them to tag after the Soviet boats at a distance without being heard.

In a war, the United States would try to sink Soviet submarines before they could go from port to the open ocean, Navy sources said. This tactic is part of the "barrier strategy" developed over the years to deal with the Soviet undersea threat. The secret papers could compromise some of the basic elements of this strategy, according to the sources, and prompt the Soviets to develop countermeasures.

"The elder Walker was the really grievous loss to our intelligence community, tragically so at the time," Carroll said.

Assuming that the information was sent promptly to the Soviets, he said, "it would have told them everything about our capabilities at the time."

Staff writers Rick Atkinson, Don Oberdorfer, Paul W. Valentine and George C. Wilson contributed to this report.